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August 2023

Via email to fishdiv@vincysurf.com

RE: Atlantic Ocean longline tuna (StarKist) FIP

Dear Fisheries ministry of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,

This letter is regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna fishery (StarKist). The fishery targets Atlantic bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). The longline vessels are flagged to Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Panama, and Taiwan and operate on the high seas in FAO Areas 21, 27, 31, 34, 41, and 47, and within the following coastal state's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs): Senegal (see **Error! Reference source not found.** for full vessel details). The fishery is regionally managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean. Please view the FIP overview and more details on the [FisheryProgress profile](#), to find out more information.

The aim of the FIP is to become certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and the FIP intends to submit the fishery to the MSC certification over the next year. Consequently, there are a number of actions that the FIP must undertake before it can pass all the requirements of certification, mainly from Principle 3 – Effective Management. Within this Principle, there are three areas that are currently failing due to lack of available information, including:

- 3.2.2 – Decision-making processes
- 3.2.3 – Compliance and enforcement

The majority of the actions require specific knowledge of fisheries management from all the vessel flag state's, including Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In order to make this process more efficient, the FIP would be willing to meet virtually over a video conference platform, such as Zoom, with fisheries ministers from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to ask questions about the current fisheries management practices in the nation. We would use this opportunity to discuss and learn more about the current fishery management practices in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and use the information as evidence to inform the MSC when the FIP enters into certification.

Conversely, if you would prefer to correspond over email and provide specific evidence of the fisheries management procedures in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, this would also be acceptable.

Please respond to this letter to inform the FIP if Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is willing to collaborate with the FIP in achieving MSC Certification. If you have any questions or queries about the FIP or the requirements of the fisheries ministry, do not hesitate in reaching out to the FIP Coordinator, Tom Evans.

Kind regards,

Tom Evans – FIP Coordinator and Director at Key Traceability

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